

## CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1        1. A rake stripper for cleaning debris from a rake having a handle and a plurality of tines, the stripper comprising:
  - 3              a cleaning member presenting a width, moveable between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position, the cleaning member comprising:
    - 6                  a pair of cleaning elements, each element having a distal end wherein the distal ends define the width of the cleaning member, and
    - 9                  an adjustment means for adjusting the width of the member, the adjustment means including a bracket coupled with the cleaning elements and presenting a longitudinal axis for selective positioning of the distal ends along a line generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bracket; and
  - 14              a biasing means for biasing the cleaning member toward the retracted position.
- 1        2. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bracket defines a hollow interior and includes opposed, open ends of the bracket.
- 1        3. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 2, wherein one of the cleaning elements is telescopically received in each of the ends.

1           4.     The rake stripper as set forth in claim 3, wherein the bracket presents an  
2     upper face and a plurality of adjustment holes defined through the upper face of the  
3     bracket and in communication with the bracket interior.

1           5.     The rake stripper as set forth in claim 4, wherein each of the cleaning  
2     elements presents a recess and includes a locking button positioned in the recess.

1           6.     The rake stripper as set forth in claim 5, wherein each of the buttons  
2     defines an outer circumference, and the adjustment holes each define an inner  
3     circumference that is greater than the outer circumference of the buttons.

1           7.     The rake as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biasing means includes a  
2     biasing member having a unitary cantilevered spring and a support coupled with the  
3     bracket.

1           8.     The rake stripper as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bracket includes a  
2     pair of bracket halves clamped about the cleaning elements adjacent to the distal ends  
3     thereof.

1           9.     The rake stripper as set forth in claim 8, wherein the cleaning elements  
2     are constructed from generally flexible material having a memory and present proximal  
3     ends.

1           10. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 9, wherein the biasing means for  
2 biasing the cleaning member toward the retracted position includes a rake handle clamp  
3 in which the proximal ends of the cleaning elements are received.

1           11. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bracket and cleaning  
2 elements of the cleaning member are formed from a unitary structure, and the distal  
3 ends of the cleaning elements include a plurality of break away tabs as an adjustment  
4 means for adjusting the width of the cleaning member.

1           12. A rake stripper for cleaning debris from a rake having a handle and a  
2 plurality of tines, the stripper comprising:  
3           a support bracket presenting a longitudinal axis;  
4           a biasing member engaging the bracket for movement of the bracket between  
5           a first, retracted position and a second extended position, and for biasing  
6           the bracket toward the retracted position; and  
7           a cleaning element coupled with the bracket for selective movement of the  
8           element along the longitudinal axis of the bracket between a narrow  
9           position and a wide position.

1           13. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 12, wherein the bracket defines a  
2 hollow interior and includes opposed, open ends.

1           14. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 13, wherein the cleaning element  
2 is telescopically received in one of the ends of the bracket.

1           15. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 14, wherein the bracket presents  
2 an upper face and a plurality of adjustment holes defined through the upper face of the  
3 bracket and in communication with the bracket interior.

1           16. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 15, wherein the cleaning element  
2 presents a recess and includes a locking button positioned in the recess.

1           17. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 16, wherein the button defines an  
2 outer circumference, and the adjustment holes each define an inner circumference that  
3 is greater than the outer circumference of the buttons.

1           18. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 17, wherein the inner circumference  
2 of the adjustment holes is slightly greater than the outer circumference of the button.

1           19. A rake stripper for cleaning debris from a rake having a handle and a  
2         plurality of tines, the stripper comprising:  
3                 a bracket presenting a longitudinal axis, and defining a hollow interior space and  
4                 opposed, open ends;  
5                 a biasing member for permitting movement of the bracket between a first,  
6                 retracted position and a second extended position, and for biasing the  
7                 bracket toward the retracted position, the biasing member including an  
8                 integral cantilevered spring and support coupled with the bracket; and  
9                 a pair of cleaning bars each having proximal and distal ends, the proximal ends  
10                 of the bars being telescopically received within the open each ends of the  
11                 bracket for selective movement of the bars along the longitudinal axis of  
12                 the bracket between a narrow position and a wide position.

1           20. The rake stripper as set forth in claim 19 wherein the bracket and the  
2         pair of cleaning bars are formed from a unitary structure, and the distal ends of the  
3         pair of cleaning bars including a plurality of break away tabs as an adjustment  
4         means for adjusting the width of the pair of cleaning bars.